

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 11036 160302Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 /041 W
-----103489 160557Z /10

O R 160245Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2530
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11036

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: BRITISH VESSEL AVON FOREST PROCEEDING TO KAO-HSIUNG

REF: HONG KONG 10990

1. HONG KONG GOVT (HKG) INFORMED US THAT LONDON ADVISED
AVON FOREST IS OWNED BY UK SUBSIDIARY OF CANADIAN
COMPANY AND THAT VESSEL IS CHARTERED TO A CANADIAN COMPANY
(DIFFERENT ONE) IN MONTREAL. PREVIOUS INFORMATION THAT
VESSEL CHARTERED TO U.S. COMPANY WAS INCORRECT.

2. LONDON ALSO ADVISED THAT AVON FOREST HAD DIVERTED TOWARDS
HONG KONG, BUT OWNERS HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY INSTRUCTED
CAPTAIN TO PROCEED TO KAO-HSIUNG AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED
TO AWAIT DEVELOPMENTS. HKG BELIEVES THAT VESSEL WILL
ARRIVE AT KAO-HSIUNG ON AUGUST 17 AT APPROXIMATELY 5:00 A.M.

3. HKG IS GRATEFUL FOR EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER
AND SUGGESTS THAT IF EMBASSY HAS NOT YET CONTACTED
TAIWAN AUTHORITIES, IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO WAIT UNTIL
AVON FOREST ARRIVES AT KAO-HSIUNG.

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4. IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EMBASSY COULD STAY IN TOUCH
WITH AGENT IN TAIPEI WITH THE HOPE THAT HE WILL NOT
MAKE A NEW APPROACH TO THE AUTHORITIES UNTIL EMBASSY
HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN UK POSITION.

5. CABLE WILL BE SENT LATER TODAY WITH UK AND HONG KONG
POSITION ONE THESE REFUGEES FOR EMBASSY USE IN SPEAKING

WITH GOVT OFFICIALS.
SHOESMITH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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